

January 11, 1985

1934 and Rural Electrification Act in 1935. Works of art honoring Norris are displayed in the Rotunda and foyer areas. They are winning entries of a contest for high school students held last year by the committee and the Nebraska Art Teachers Association. There is also a scale model of the proposed south and east malls of the Capitol on display. So, this morning, we are privileged to have our guests with us to dedicate this Chamber to Senator Norris and have this Chamber carry, from here on forward, his name in honor of his contributions to our state and to this system of government. I would like to say at the outset, without intervening too much into the program, that I, myself, had the privilege of knowing Senator Norris when I was about 12 or 13 years old and interviewed him for a school assignment paper in the lobby of the Dutchess Hotel in Ogallala and was witness to his great meeting with Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the McCook fair grounds in the 1932 campaign. So I have great and rich memories of one of our great statesmen. I would like now to introduce to you a friend of mine, from my own area of the state in western Nebraska, who came to the Legislature and, having broken all records, even up until now, was appointed...selected as Speaker of the Legislature in his very first term and later became Lieutenant Governor. So he is no stranger to this hall. He is a man who has been prominent in state affairs of Nebraska and the Republican party. It is my honor to present to you now, my friend, the honorable former Governor Robert Crosby.

ROBERT B. CROSBY: Thank you. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I share, as much as you, a dislike for a speaker who reads a manuscript. I haven't done it for a number of years. I'm going to do it this morning. I regard this as an important occasion. Also the manuscript that has been distributed is in the nature of my brief and this is in the nature of my closing argument which started 41 years ago when, as...and by the way, Mr. President, it was my second term when I was Speaker. I wasn't quite that good.

PRESIDENT: I stand corrected.

ROBERT B. CROSBY: As Speaker I introduced, to this body, Senator George W. Norris. There had been before that time and there followed my long admiration for Senator Norris, which many of my republican friends did not share. So this